GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2692
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
DECREASING GHARIALS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Gharials is reducing day by day in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding their number at present in comparison to the last survey;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a), (b), (c)&(d) The population of Gharials has been fairly stable as per the population estimation carried out by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The estimated number of Gharials in the current survey has been about 1645 as against the number of 1555 during the previous survey.

(e) The Steps taken by the Government to protect Gharial include the following:
(i) Gharial has been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording them highest degree of protection.
(ii) Breeding of Gharials in captivity has been successfully standardized and as and when required, captive bred Gharials are released in wild also.
(iii) Financial & technical assistance is provided to State Governments under centrally Sponsored Schemes for conservation and protection of wildlife including Gharial and their habitat.
(iv) All efforts have been made by the State Governments to stop illegal sand mining thus avoiding any damage to the habitat of Gharials. Further, the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are collaborating for the conservation and management of Gharials and their habitats.